

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

**Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 28, line 26 with the following amended paragraph:**

Although it is preferable to minimize the length of the optical fiber 5, in order to produce the fiber module at low cost, it is necessary that the operation of fusion splicing by use of a conventional fusion splicer can be performed. For example, in the case where the fusion splicing is performed by using the fusion splicer S175 manufactured by Furukawa Electric Co., Ltd., it is preferable that the length of the metalized portion 7 in the optical fiber 5 located outside the package is 65 to 75 mm. In addition, it is preferable that no foreign material exists in a region at which the temperature rises at the time of fusion, and the length of the ~~metalized portion 7~~bare portion 6 in the optical fiber 5 located outside the package is minimized in order to maintain the strength. For example, the preferable length of the ~~metalized portion 7~~bare portion 6 outside the package is about 2 to 40 mm.